

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY: EUR/SOV:ASTEFAN

APPROVED BY: EUR/SOV:MJWILKINSON

----- 113462 /42

P 131910Z DEC 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 293980

FOL TEL SENT ACTION MOSCOW FROM SECSTATE DTD 03 DEC 1976 QTE

UNCLAS STATE 293980

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UR, SCUL, SEDU

SUBJECT: CULTURAL EXCHANGE: SOVIET VISA FOR MEMBER OF
U.S. DELEGATION ON BILINGUAL EDUCATION

1. CITIZEN EXCHANGE CORPS (CEC) IS SPONSORING A PRIVATE EXCHANGE ON BILINGUAL EDUCATION (TEACHING IN LANGUAGE OF MINORITY GROUP, E.G. SPANISH OR NAVAJO IN U.S.). SOVIET SIDE RECENTLY TRAVELED TO U.S. FOR FIRST ROUND OF MEETINGS WHICH WERE REPORTEDLY SUCCESSFUL. RETURN DELEGATION FROM U.S. SCHEDULED TO DEPART DEC. 4.

2. CEC INFORMS DEPARTMENT THAT ONE OF THE EIGHT MEMBERS OF THE DELEGATION, MR. JOSHUA FISHMAN, HAS NOT RECEIVED VISA, WHILE OTHERS APPARENTLY HAVE BEEN ADVISED OF SOVIET APPROVAL.

3. DEPARTMENT INQUIRY TO THE SOVIET EMBASSY HAS ELICITED NON-COMMITAL REPLY THAT MATTER IS IN HANDS OF MOSCOW AUTHORITIES. NO EXPLICIT STATEMENT OF REFUSAL WAS MADE, ALTHOUGH SOVIET EMBASSY CONSULAR SECTION HAS SUGGESTED TO CEC THAT IT WOULD BE EASIER IF THEY WERE TO FIND ANOTHER
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NOMINEE. DEPTOFF NOTED CONCERN THAT USEFUL EXCHANGE

WAS BEING PUT IN JEOPARDY FOR NO APPARENT REASON AND
URGED ISSUANCE.

4. INTEREST IN THIS PROGRAM IS HIGH. DEPT HAS RECEIVED
TELEPHONE INQUIRIES FROM THE OFFICES OF SENATOR JAVITTS,
CONGRESSMAN UDALL, CONGRESSMAN BADILLO, AND THE A.P.

5. REQUEST EMBASSY ENQUIRE OF RESPONSIBLE MFA OFFICIALS
ON THE STATUS OF THE FISHMAN VIAS REQUEST, NOTING OUR
UNDERSTANDING THAT DELEGATION WILL CANCEL UNLESS ALL
MEMBERS GET VISAS AND CONVEYING OUR CONCERN OVER ADVERSE
CONSEQUENCES FOR PRIVATE EXCHANGE ACTIVITY.

6. PLEASE SLUG REPLY IMMEDIATE FOR EUR/SOV. ROBINSON UNQTE
KISSINGER

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NNN

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